

THE INTERNATIONAL CONCERTINA ASSOCIATION

N E W S L E T T E R

NO. 162.

JANUARY, 1969.

The A.G.M. of the I.C.A.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 25th January, at 2.45. in the afternoon.

(Committee at 2 p.m.)

The meeting will be held at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1, (near Holborn Station) and-it is hoped to have the use of the Small Hall on the ground floor.

On other pages.

Please read carefully the notes headed "Committee and Officials", which will help you to make decisions and cast votes, on this extra important occasion. Frank Butler will make his last report as Secretary in this issue, to save time at the A.G.M. There is a nomination form for the Committee, which must be posted to the Secretary to arrive Jan. 21st and of course a very useful form to accompany your annual subscription if you have not already paid it.

THANK YOU!

Perhaps because it is our last year of office my wife and I have received an extra large number of Christmas Cards, most of them bearing also a message of thanks for our services to the I.C.A. and good wishes for our future. We are very grateful for these expressions of goodwill, which have given us much pleasure.

Frank & Doris Butler.

This Newsletter is issued for the I.C.A. by the Secretary,
Frank E. Butler, 60, Mayfield Crescent, London, N.9. England.

REPORT OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING (contributed)

We had a very good meeting. We held it in December, actually, to ensure that the Secretary, Frank Butler could be present, and we were sorry to hear of the member who came the week before as well because he had not noticed the change of date.

On the whole we had a nostalgic evening, the few soloists playing favourites. For example, Billy Hartford gave us Puppet on a String, and Autumn Leaves, and Tommy Williams played Amouruse and his famous Bread and Dripping Waltz. (Again - why B and D?).

A highlight was Maurice Harvey and C.Parslay on Duet and Bass concertinas, playing a "Cradle Song"* This was restrained and evocative, almost impeccable, and concertina playing of the very highest order. It also showed the great charm of very soft playing. Maurice took both lines in the treble clef, and Duet players will realise how his parts will have entwined and overlapped. It was incredible to hear Charlie maintaining a perfect legato, and piano withal, deep down in the bass.

A quartette from the Kensington Group played the Indian Love Call and La Camparita in fine style.

J. Wat chain played folk dances on his Anglo. He consented to answer questions, from which we learned that he was originally inspired by the playing of P.A.L. Ham, and wished to emulate him. He acquired a 30 key Jefferies Anglo about four years ago, and taught himself. He can read music, but very slowly. Often he learns by ear, and he agreed that it is not possible to play for folk dancing whilst reading music, since it is essential to mould the tune to the movements of the dancers, and to watch them is essential.

The major concerted items were an F.E.B. arrangement of a quartette by Pleyel and Mendelssohn's Wedding March.

We finished by playing carols, the usual set from parts written by Frank Butler, who has promised to provide a different selection by next year and asks for requests from members. Of this years performance, it was notable how many sang also, and throughout the evening the exceptional attention to the conductors beat. The I.C.A. is getting professional.

Change of address. Our President is now compelled by pressure of work to devote all his energies to the Deanery and in consequence to take up residence there. He should now properly be addressed as:-

The Reverend Kenneth N.J.Loveless, V.R.D., F.S.A.,
F.S.A. Scot., RNR.

Rural Dean of Hackney,
Hackney Deanery,
Broke Road, London, E.8.

THE SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1968.

From 1953 to 1955 Desmond Hart was the presiding genius of the I.C.A. and it was on his retirement in 1955 that I "became Secretary, on a condition that I would hold office for one year only. Harry Crabb became Treasurer and Father Loveless President. In that year we produced a regular Newsletter, held several socials and the first Festival, and cancelled a concertina week-end for lack of support.

In 1966 Harry Minting took over as Secretary, resigning after two years. My wife became Treasurer in 1957 and in 1958 we became partners in I.C.A. management as in other walks of life. Although we have borne the greater part of the burden, it would be unfair not to mention that there have always been members anxious and willing to help. The problem was often the inconvenience of dividing tasks.

I have never lacked ideas for the I.C.A., and am rather more conscious of the things left undone than the achievements which might lay to my credit. I have had some odd patches of ill-health, and the increasing demands of an exacting job to prevent me running the I.C.A. as I have dreamed of running it.

It is not easy to explain why I and my wife are resigning. It is probably nearest to the truth when I say that we have always acted more from a sense of duty than of enjoyment of our office, and the time has come when for my part at least, duty no longer impells me to forsake more congenial occupations to attend to the I.C.A.

The I.C.A. is not a big association, I doubt if it ever will be. But it has made slow and healthy progress over the years. In 1955 it had less than a hundred effective members and was in debt. To-day it has 163 members, o. mailing list of about another 140 interested people, and sufficient reserve of funds to preserve it through a bad year. This has been a bad year of rising costs for everything including postage, but last years increase of subscription was in good time to meet it, and a further increase should not be necessary for some time.

A variety of enquiries have reached me each year and I have always tried to be completely fair in answering them, not persuading my correspondents that one type of concertina was better than another, telling them all the sources of supply, and all the opportunities for lessons. Engagements have always been put in the way of our few professionals. I have used my administrative ability and musical knowledge to the advantage of the I.C.A. and not used the I.C.A. to further my own ends. I like to think that these ideals are being perpetuated by my successors.

At some stage during the A.G.M. I shall hand over to a successor, to whom I offer good wishes, and an assurance of ready co-operation from the back benches when necessary. To all members who have encouraged me, borne gently with my shortcomings and given me support and friendship, I express my thanks. In special measure I do thank our President, the Treasurer, and the members of the Committee.

May your concertinas always be instrumental in promoting harmony and good-fellowship.

COMMITTEE AND OFFICIALS OF THE I.C.A.

Our President acted wisely when a few years ago he ' led the I.C.A. to re-shape its constitution. Under his guidance, it was enacted that the Secretary and Treasurer should be permanent officials of the I.C.A. chosen by the Committee, but with the appointments confirmed by members at the A.G.M.

Faced with the simultaneous resignation of Frank and Doris Butler, the Committee deliberated who amongst the members could be invited to take office. After proper consideration, they decided to fill the posts from among themselves, thus opening the way to elect to the Committee members who might bring in fresh enthusiasms, and would themselves learn something of the running of this association.

At the A.G.M. members will be asked to confirm the appointment of Mr. J. Harvey as Hon. Secretary, and Mr. F.J.Hutcherson as Hon. Treasurer.

Jim Harvey is pre-I.C.A. for he was a prominent member of the old Battersea Club. He seems to know all the personalities, all the instruments, and all the tunes. He has always been to the fore in I.C.A. affairs and in recent years has travelled much, visiting members outside London. John Hutcherson has been a member of the Committee for some years, has been trophy steward for the last two Festivals, is Librarian of the I.C.A. and has led meetings in the absence of Frank Butler. He is an outstanding performer on the English Concertina.

Mr. Harvey's appointment will create one vacancy on the Committee. Mr. Hutcherson has just completed his term of office, and will create another, while a third vacancy will arise because Mr. E.Watts completes his term of office.

Mr. Watts of Luton has had particular interest in the needs of members out of London, and in spite of his own journey to London, has been present at most functions and committee meetings. The Committee hope you will feel disposed to nominate him for another term of office.

The I.C.A. has been fortunate in an offer of assistance from Ruth Ware, who is prepared to edit and produce the Newsletter. As Publicity Manager for a well-known publishing house, she is particularly competent for this task, and knowing the esteem in which the Newsletter is held, the Committee were immensely relieved to accept this offer. It would be appropriate to nominate her for the Committee.

The Committee propose to co-opt Mr. R. Cross to complete the unexpired portion of Mr. Harvey's term. Mr. Cross is a newcomer to concertinas and the I.C.A. but is a man of considerable executive experience in the entertainment world, and it is felt that closer association with him might be of future benefit.

With all these changes, the Committee will be glad to have the continued presence of Mrs. McDougall who being in the middle of her term of office, needs no election. Vena, as always, gives of her time, ability and considerable musical knowledge to the I.C.A. and any member needing it. Father Loveless will continue keeping a benevolent if sharp presidential eye on the affairs of the I.C.A.

NEWS OF THE MEMBERS

Peter Honri is now playing in "The Servant of Two Masters", the classic comedy by Goldoni, starring Tommy Steele, which has opened in the West-end of London after a preliminary provincial run. Peter plays on stage in a trio of guitar, duet concertina, and flute/piccolo, and the group is an integral part of the show. We know this play of old and it is an energetic one for all concerned. We hope Peter enjoys it and we commend it to I.C.A. Members.

Change of Address. A. Fox, to 103, The Ridge, Hastings, Sussex.

Lieut.Col.Bramwell Thornott of the S.A. was in Wigan a little while ago, conducting anniversary week-end meetings and delighting congregations with his concertina solos. He also took the opportunity to call on our old friend Harry Tanpsett, and of course there was much talk of concertinas.

The I.C.A. regrets to announce the death of Mr. Preston of Oldham, at the age of 78, of pneumonia. A life-long player and collector of concertinas, he wished to take his favourite instrument to hospital with him. He reduced his collection recently, but there are still at least eight concertinas for disposal.